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September 20th, 2017



Mayor and Members of Council
320 Portage Avenue
Fort Frances, ON P9A 3P9

Dear Mayor and Members of Council:

Alcohol use remains a leading preventable cause of morbidity and mortality in Ontario. The alcohol related harms are apparent in Fort Frances. Nearly 1-in-10 alcohol users in Ontario report weekly sessions of binge drinking, and we would expect that this number is higher in Fort Frances especially among our youth. Alcohol is also causally related to chronic disease and injury. For example, nearly three thousand cases of cancer are attributable to alcohol use in Ontario. Alcohol harms extend beyond the user and impacts family, friends, relationships, and communities. Addressing the harms of alcohol use has major implications for police, emergency services, and the health care system.

We are writing as family physicians and concerned citizens to urge council to revise the Municipal Alcohol Policy (MAP) to meet current best practice guidelines. We are asking for municipal leadership to guarantee municipal events that are open to families, children and youth, be alcohol free, such as farmer's markets and hockey games. Alcohol free family events are beneficial to our community, reduce the harms of alcohol misuse and support our children and youth who are particularly vulnerable.

Thank you .

Sincerely,

Dr. Melanie A. Halvorsen

Dr. Lorena L. Jenks

Dr. Robert W. Nugent